(a) whether Government propose to include more families under NREG project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of this project in Orissa and whether all the districts in the State have since been covered;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this project is also proposed to be extended to farmers community; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) NREGA was launched in 200 identified districts including 19 districts of Orissa in the first phase of implementation of NREGA with effect from 2.2.2006. 130 more districts were added in the second phase during 2007-08 which included 5 districts of Orissa. All the remaining rural areas of the country have been included under the Act with effect from 1.4.2008. During 2008-09 (up to Jan., 2009), a total of 36968502 households have been provided employment under the Act. In Orissa, a total of 815588 households have been provided employment up to January, 2009.

(e) and (f) NREGA is demand based. The Act provides a legal guarantee of 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Thus, all rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Thus, all rural household including the farming community may benefit under NREGA if they register and obtain job cards and apply for doing unskilled manual work. Para 1 (iv) of Schedule I of the Act provides for the provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities on land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes or to Below Poverty Line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India.

Labour shift to NREGS affecting agricultural productivity

364. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the staffing of labour from fields to National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes has led to decline in the productivity of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up any study to assess the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Independent monitoring agencies to monitor NREG programme

365. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister had called for effective monitoring and implementation of flagship programmes like NREGP launched under his Ministry;

(b) if so, how many programmes under the Ministry are in place and what is status of fund allocation/utilization by all States;

(c) what is status of monitoring of such programmes at the State and district level;

(d) whether Government plan to have independent monitoring agencies to monitor these programmes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implements a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, creation of rural infrastructure and providing basic amenities for people living in rural areas of the country. The programmes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Integrated Wastelands Management Programme (IWMP), which includes Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme. Against the revised estimates of Rs. 75154.35 crore for the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development for the current year (2008-09), the Ministry has utilized Rs. 51683.76 crore up to 31.01.2009 by releasing funds to various States for their implementation.

With a view to monitor various programmes the Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Monthly/Quarterly Progress Reports, on line reporting, MIS, Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors to monitor